# **Delta Doctors**



#### WHAT DOES THIS PROGRAM DO?

To increase access to quality healthcare in Delta communities, DRA has implemented the Delta Doctors program, which allows foreign physicians who are trained in this country to work in medically underserved areas for three years through a J-1 visa waiver. Those in the Delta Doctors program do not take jobs away from U.S. born physicians. Instead, they provide critical medical services in areas with a physician shortage.

#### WHO MAY APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAM?

Foreign physicians, both primary care physicians and specialists, who are trained in the United States. Physicians must agree to the following:

- Provide direct patient care for a term of 3 years;
- Provide direct patient care for 40 hours per week or 160 hours per month;
- Provide direct patient care to individuals without discriminating against them because (a) they are unable to pay
  for services or (b) payment for those health services are made under Medicare and Medicaid, or a state equivalent
  indigent healthcare program; and
- Comply with policies and provisions set forth in the Delta Doctors Program Guidelines.

#### WHAT IS AN ELIGIBLE AREA?

Facilities located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or Medically Underserved Area (MUA) within the 252 counties and parishes of DRA's eight state region. Requests for placement and counties and parishes outside of the DRA Region are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

### **HOW DO WE GET STARTED?**

DRA accepts J-1 visa waiver requests on a continuous basis, year-round. Facilities must make a good faith effort to recruit an American physician for the opportunity in the same salary range, without success for at least 45 days, before submitting waiver requests. Requests are submitted on behalf of physicians and employers directly to DRA by immigration attorneys.

## **WHO CAN ANSWER QUESTIONS?**

Christina Wade
Health Program Manager
(662) 302-7339 office
cwade@dra.gov

For more information, visit <u>dra.gov/DeltaDoctors</u>.







